

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is a submission to accompany a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

The claims have been amended to emphasize the loop control, which is performed by the processor. The cited prior art, either considered alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest such loop control. More specifically, as amended, the system of independent claim 1 recites a processor that is coupled to a locked loop circuit to control the locked loop circuit to synchronize an input signal of the locked loop circuit to an output signal of the locked loop circuit. Such control is neither taught nor suggested by any of the cited references. Furthermore, as amended, claim 1 recites that the processor reads a first value that is provided by an interface of the locked loop circuit, which is indicative of a timing between the input signal and the output signal of the processor, based on the first value, determines a second value that is indicative of a delay to be imposed by the locked loop circuit, and writes the second value to the interface of the locked loop circuit.

As conceded by the Examiner, Gunzelmann fails to teach or suggest control of a locked loop circuit by a processor that performs at least one function of a system not related to the control of the locked loop circuit. Pang fails to provide the missing claim limitations. In this regard, Pang merely teaches providing a signal to a PLL circuit 22, which is indicative of a signal to be provided by the PLL circuit 22. However, the loop control itself is performed by the PLL circuit 22. In this regard, Fig. 3 is clear that the PLL 22 includes a phase detector 22a, charge pump 22b and load pass filter 22c for purposes of this loop control. It is noted that no processing unit disclosed in Pang performs any of the claimed functions. Thus, Pang fails to disclose a processor that reads and writes values to an interface of the PLL 22 for purposes of synchronizing the input and output signals of the PLL circuit 22. Without this disclosure, Pang fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing and claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the § 103 rejection of claim 1.

Claims 16 and 24 have been amended in a similar manner and are patentable for at least the same reasons. For example, as amended, the method of independent claim 16 recites specific acts that are performed by the processor such as reading and writing values to an interface of a locked loop circuit for purposes of controlling a synchronization between input and output

signals of the locked loop circuit. Likewise, independent claim 24 has been amended to recite instructions that are executed by a processor to write and read values to a locked loop interface for purposes of controlling a synchronization between input and output signals of the locked loop circuit. The hypothetical combination of Gunzelmann and Pang fails to teach or suggest at least the reading and writing acts of claim 16 and likewise fails to teach or suggest at least the reading and writing instructions that are now explicitly recited in claim 24. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the § 103 rejections of claims 16 and 24.

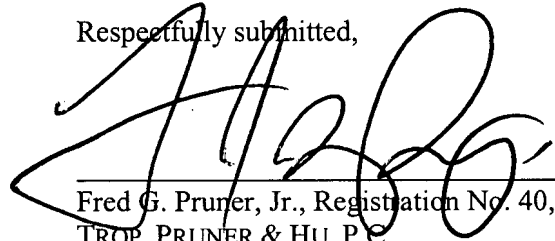
Depending claims 2-9, 17-23 and 25-29 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0550US).

Date: June 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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